

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 stand allowed. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 8 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 9 is amended to recite the subject matter of cancelled claims 7 and 8. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1-6 is appreciated, as well as the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9-11 is appreciated. Claims 9-11 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. As claims 9 is rewritten in independent form, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

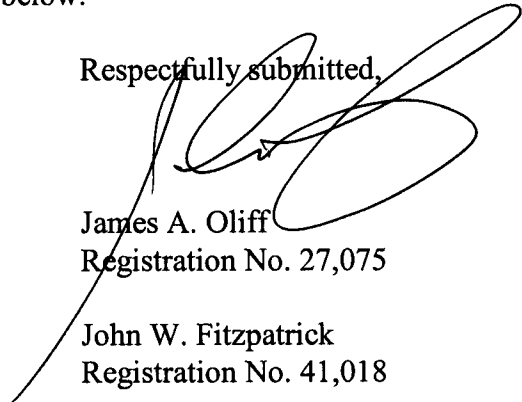
Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,650,231 to Tinari et al. (Tinari). As claims 7 and 8 are cancelled, the rejection is moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: May 12, 2006

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